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PATENT  
Atty. Docket No. SBC-002CP  
(7620/3)

#5  
D.J.  
12-2-02

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT(S): Culliss CONFIRMATION NO.: 2049  
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/839,840 ART UNIT: 2645  
FILING DATE: April 23, 2001 EXAMINER: A. Hoosain  
TITLE: ANSWERING MACHINE DETECTION FOR VOICE  
MESSAGE DELIVERY METHOD AND SYSTEM

Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**  
DEC 09 2002  
Technology Center 2600

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 5, 2002, in connection with the above-identified patent application, Applicant respectfully submits the following Response.

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated September 5, 2002, claims 1-20 were considered. The Action rejects claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,972,461 issued to Brown *et al.* and claims 2-13 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Brown *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,181,779 issued to Hwang. According to the Office Action, claim 14 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.